



Elmwood Junior School

Head Teacher: Mrs A Read

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister, we are currently in the process of planning for the full opening of school to all children on Monday 8th March.

We look forward very much to having all children back in and seeing them again. School attendance will once again be compulsory, therefore all children must attend school from this date unless they are unwell or complying with government stay at home guidance on medical advice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the amazing work you have done over these last few months to help your children with their education. I am very aware of the challenges and stress experienced by home schooling but you have all done an incredible job whilst facing significant challenges and difficulties yourselves during this pandemic.

I would also like to thank all the staff, who have been working tirelessly to deliver online learning and maintaining contact with all our children, whilst also delivering face-to-face learning for children of critical key workers and those considered vulnerable.

Teachers are prepared for the fact that children will return at very different stages in their learning. Once the children are settled back into school and we re-establish class routines, we will carry out assessments which will enable us to plan appropriate 'catch up' activities to meet individual learning needs.

Devices

If you engaged with our 'laptop loan scheme' please will you ensure your child brings the device back to school on Monday 8th March.

Full Opening Arrangements

Routines and safer practices introduced in September 2020 will resume and are set out below:

- Start and finish times will be staggered to avoid large gatherings at the school gates at the start and end of the school day
- Staggered break and lunch times
- Classes kept apart in separate bubbles of 30 children
- Children to sit at forward facing desks
- Children to eat lunch in their classroom
- Children to wear their PE kit to school on the days they have outdoor games
- No large gatherings i.e. assemblies
- No adults on site without an appointment

Please note that the school gates will not open before 8.40.

It is important that children do not arrive before their start time in order to avoid large gatherings at the school gate.

Children should arrive at their designated entrance at the following times where they will be welcomed by a member of staff before going straight to their classroom.



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Drop Off:

Year 3 Main Entrance 8.40-8.55

Year 4 Dome Gate Entrance 8.40-8.55

Year 5 Dome Gate Entrance 9.00-9.15

Year 6 Main Entrance 9.00-9.15

Collection:

Year 3 Main Entrance 2.45

Year 4 Dome Entrance 2.45

Year 5 Dome Entrance 3.00

Year 6 Main Entrance 3.00

At the end of the school day, the class teachers will bring the children to the playground. Parents/carers will come onto the school grounds and wait in a designated area to collect their child. To enable social distancing please can only one adult enter to collect each child.

We also ask all parents/carers to please wear a face covering when on the school premises.

Please leave the school grounds promptly once you have collected your child so we can prepare for the collection of other year groups. If you are collecting children from both entrances, please make your way to the other entrance along the outside of the school. No adult will be allowed to walk through the school grounds.

If you are collecting a child from the Infants, please exit through the Infant gate and then use the appropriate Junior entrance to collect your Junior child.

Please do not arrive at school before the allocated times for drop off or collection, as the gates will not be open.

No adult will be allowed on site without an appointment. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please ring or email the school for an appointment. For any non-urgent queries, please phone the school on 020 8684 4007 or email the school office at admin-jun.croydon.sch.uk

A member of the office staff will be at each entrance at 'drop off' times to respond to any urgent queries.

The school must continue to limit the amount of equipment coming to and from school. Your child should only bring with them their coat, water bottle and packed lunch box if they are not having a school dinner. Children do not need to bring in pencil cases as all stationery is provided.

I am sure that your child's return to school is welcomed by many of you. I am also aware that some of you may be feeling anxious. Please remember that the medical evidence is that children and young people are less likely to develop symptoms or to become seriously unwell if they contract the virus.



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DFE Guidance recommends that primary children do not need to wear a face covering in school. However, it does recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults visitors where social distancing between adults is not possible.

A full-time therapist from 'Croydon Drop-in' continues to work in school every day and will be available to support children with their return to school. She is also available to meet with parents/carers who may be experiencing anxiety around the current situation. She spoke to several parents/carers by phone during the partial closure and they found it comforting and reassuring.

Please contact the school if you wish to make an appointment.

Our Risk Assessment shows the school continues to have in place all the additional health and safety procedures aimed at reducing risk to staff and children. It also details what the school and

parents/carers should do if a child becomes unwell or shows symptoms of Covid-19. Details can be found on our website.

Lateral Flow Testing

All school staff have access to lateral flow testing which enables them to self-administer a lateral flow test twice weekly before coming to school. This allows identification of anyone with Covid-19 who does not show any symptoms, which makes up around 1 in 3 people.

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing for Households of School Pupils

On 28th February, the Department of Health and Social care announced that from Monday 1st March, households with primary school age children can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from March 8th.

The twice-weekly test kits to parents/carers or household members can be accessed:

- At a local test site
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site
- By ordering a home test kit online

Further information on Rapid Lateral Flow Testing can be found on the gov.uk website.

Whilst the months ahead will continue to be different, we all hope that the government's four-step plan will eventually take us out of all restrictions.

In the meantime, our priority is ensuring the well-being of our pupils, supporting their return to school, planning for their missed learning and ensuring we continue to support our families in every way we can.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A Read

Head Teacher